

XXXVIII.—*Ornithological Results of an Expedition up the Capim River, State of Pará, with Critical Remarks on the Cracidae of Lower Amazonia.* By DR. EMIL A. GOELDI, H.M.B.O.U., C.M.Z.S., Director of the Pará Museum.

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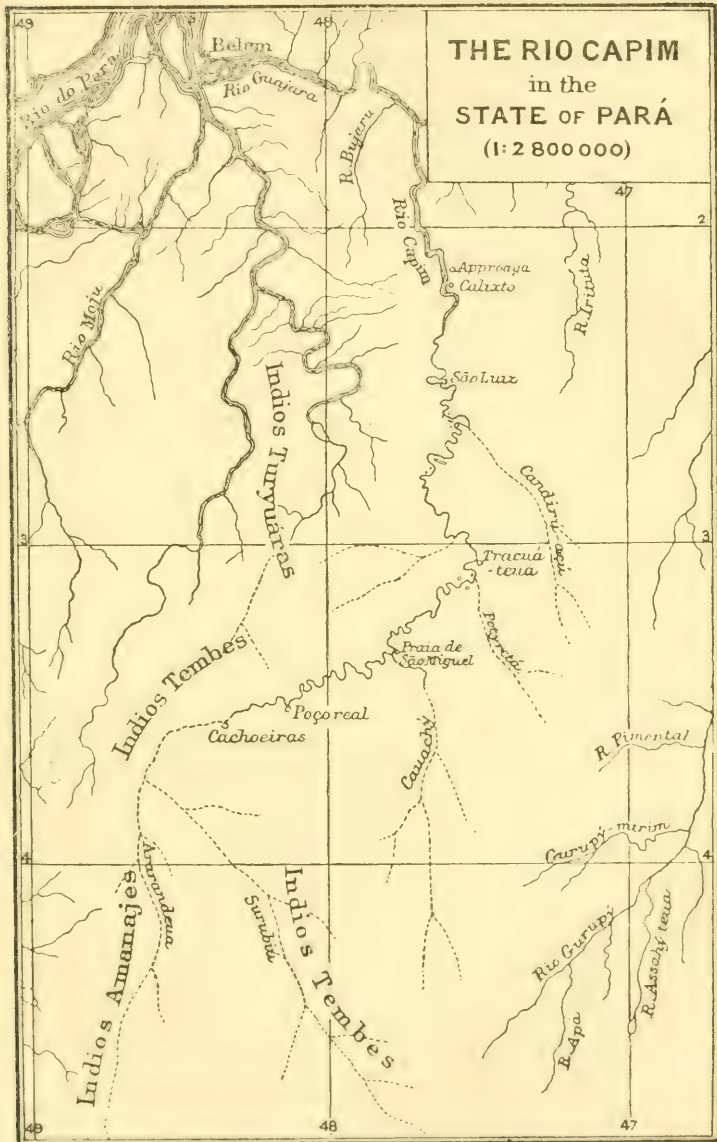
I. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

THE Capim River, the mouth of which is near the city of Pará, behind the "Arsenal do Marinha," is the last considerable affluent on the right side of the Amazon. It was important in past times in the history of Portuguese colonization on the Amazonian estuary and relatively well known in former centuries, but has been nearly forgotten in our days and has remained practically unexplored from a scientific standpoint. The examination of this river would thus naturally form for the Pará Museum an object of particular interest and earnest attention. An expedition with this purpose was organized in June and July 1897; a zoologist, a botanist, and two taxidermists of the Museum's staff forming the exploring corps, which, assisted by some important proprietors on the lower course of the river, planned to advance, by a steam-launch, as far as possible towards the headwaters and, depth allowing, to enter one or more of them, thence to return slowly in canoes brought up for the purpose.

A sketch of our itinerary, principally dealing with the geographical results, has already been published in a German periodical*. But our map, our natural history, and our ethnographical results, are only now approaching completion. The scientific results, as a whole, will probably form one of the next "Memorias do Museu," and it may be stated that the large amount of illustrative material is the principal reason of the slow progress of our work. I now

* Goeldi, E. A., "Vorläufige Mitteilung über eine Forschungsreise nach dem Oberlauf des Rio Capim, Staat Pará," Petermann's Geogr. Mitteil. vol. xliv. 1893, pp. 36-40.

Text-fig. 15.



Map of the Rio Capim.

propose to offer to our dear 'Ibis' the ornithological part of these results as a "*primeur*."

The Capim River, so far as we knew, had never been visited by a naturalist before, excepting by Alfred Russel Wallace, who made an excursion there in June 1849. He wrote about his journey in chapter v. of his interesting book, 'Travels on the Amazon and Rio Negro'*. The ornithological results of his visit were worked out and published by Selater and Salvin in the 'Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London,' 1867 †, in their "List of Birds collected by Mr. Wallace on the Lower Amazon and Rio Negro."

Wallace fixed his headquarters at Fazenda Calixto, a formerly important, but now entirely decadent, agricultural property, near the village of Sta. Anna do Capim. I am always interested in investigating the circumstances of Wallace's visit. Among our boatmen we had descendants in the first and second degree of Senhor Calixto, whose opulence is described and whose hospitality is praised in the above-cited book in warm terms. But these descendants were in very poor circumstances—perhaps not much superior to those of the most humble employés of Senhor Calixto of Wallace's time. "*Tempora mutantur!*" I often thought—"What would Wallace say if he could meet with the sons and grandsons of his host among the day-labourers, satisfied to be enlisted as boatmen?" The Fazenda Calixto is now totally ruined.

Wallace did not pass beyond what we call the lower course of the Capim River, so it is of no use to compare his itinerary in 1849 with ours in 1897. Where he finished was just at the beginning of our expedition. Even his mention of the smallest affluent, "about half-a-day's journey further up the river" (*op. cit.* p. 86), which he gives as the limit of his most extended excursion, does not alter this. It was probably the Igarapé Caratá-téua; the next right-hand tributary, the Igarapé Jabotý-maior, being too far off from Fazenda Calixto

* New edition, 1889, pp. 77-92. First edition, 1853.

† P. Z. S. 1867, pp. 566-596.

to have been reached in half-a-day's paddling. But in Wallace's time the Temb  and Tur u ras Indians had their "malocas" considerably lower down the river than at present, and it was easier to reach them than it is now.

Dr. Selater calls the river Capim "a small river issuing into the Rio Par , near the city of Par " (*op. cit.* p. 567). This is quite a mistake, as the Capim River, which measures fully a kilometre in breadth at its mouth, and not less than from 50 to 60 metres at Pogo Real and the waterfalls near Acar u aua in lat. $3\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ S., and is, moreover, navigable during many weeks for steamers, ought not to be classed as an unimportant and inconsiderable stream. But compared with some others of the great tributaries of the Amazon such as the Tocantins, Xing , and Tapaj z, the Capim River certainly plays a secondary part.

I have done all in my power to give a complete sketch of the bird-life on the Capim River, beginning from the results of Wallace's visit in 1849. This may be allowed to be a useful attempt to form a special and somewhat elaborate picture of the ornithological features of a circumscribed portion of the interior of the State of Par , but will be still more useful, I agree, in the case of its being followed by a series of similar sketches of other localities constructed on the same principle.

It is an agreeable duty to me to state again that the constant help which I have had from Dr. Selater, whose never-ceasing interest in the Neotropical Avifauna is evidenced by a whole series of monumental works, shews that he does not feel the trouble which I am always causing him by my requests for the determination and identification of bird-skins, the comparison of which with type-specimens seems to me to be indispensable for careful work.

II. NARRATIVE OF THE JOURNEY.

Embarking at Par  at 7.15 A.M. on the 15th of June, 1897, in fine weather, on the steam-launch 'Lauro Sadr ,' usually engaged on the Immigration Service and lent to me by the Government, we traversed the distance to Fazenda Approaga